A Straunge Foot-Post,

With

A Packet full of ſtrange *Petitions*,

After a long Vacation for a good Terme.

Printed at London by E. A. dwelling neare Chriſt Church. 1613.

THE PETITIONERS.

The

Harlot. To her the Bawde comes.

Spendall. On him the Sergeant attends.

Countrey Client. The Hoſtler followes him.

Old Seruingman, followed by the Widdow.

Maide gotten with childe. The Parriter waites on her.

Louer. To whom the countrey Schoolemaſter comes.

Old Woman married to the yong man.

Young woman married to the old man.

Cuckold.

Old Souldier.

Prentiſe.

Mal-content.

Poore Scoller.

To the Reader.

THe *Perſians* were wont to keepe in their houſes the Picture of an *Epicure* ouerladen with wine, and ſleeping with meate in his mouth, that by the view of ſuch an vgly ſight they might learne to be moderate, and avoyd the like exceſſe. The *Parthians* alſo to make their young men learne and fall into deteſtation of the alluring inticements of wicked women, are ſaid to keepe in their houſes a young man blinde carued very curiouſly; beſides whome, was adioyned the Picture of a Woman, of farre more excellent perfection then the Image of *Pigmalion*, hauing one hand in his pocket to picke his purſe, and holding a knife in the other hand to cut his throat.

For eſchewing the like enormities, I wiſh thee (*Reader*) in ſtead of the *Perſians* Picture of an *Epicure*, and the *Parthians* Picture of an *Harlot* in thine houſe, to carry about thee this *Packet* in thy Pocket: Which being opened, will Preſent ſufficient matter vnto thee that may both make thee weane thy ſelfe from wanton deſires, and ſhun the miſery that followes exceſſiue ſuperfluity, as alſo eſcape many other detriments that accompany the contempt of aduiſed courſes.

If any handling this *Packe*, or peruſing it (as I doubt not but many will) ſhall by it be drawne to forſake ſome infectious humours that it opens vnto them, I ſhall be glad of the recouery ſuch ſicke Patients: If others (not tainted) with the like infirmities) ſhall onely looke on it, and laugh at it, and partly like it, the end of my labours haue a condigne counterpoiſe: Farewell.

Thine Anthony Nixon.

A STRANGE FOOTE-POST, WITH A PACKET full of madde Petitions.

IVst about that time of ỹ yeare when ỹ Spring begins to cõmand her handmaide Flora, to sticke the bosome of every watry maedow, & sedgie lake, with nosegayes of party coloured flowers: hauing dulled my spirits with serious meditations, and plunged my senses in the quicksands of Inuention, aswell, to shake of a sullen Melancholy that attended me, as to entertaine some quicke, and more publicke recreation: I walked into a neighbouring meade, where it was my chance to light vpon an Arbor so priuately seated, as if Nature had built it a Caue, or receptacle for Solitude: inuironed so close, with the long and slender armes of Osiers, and so curiously intermingled with the leauy fingers of Woodbine, and sweete Eglantine, that neither cold nor rains could easily pierce it. In whose windowes, the feathered Quiristers of the grone, skipping from twig to twig, song pretty (though idle) notes, to the murmure of a siluer spring, which made such soft and solemne Musicke, that what with wondering, at the more then common workemanship of Art, and the Metaphisicall indeauours of Nature, in their ignorant (yet well according) Harmony, Leaning my hand vpon my elbow, (being at that time destitute of a softer pillow) I fell into a sodaine, yet sound sleepe, during which, my imaginary insight apprehended a most strange vision.

Me thought I was elevated into the Zodiack, where like a Stranger cast upon a forrain Coast, I was stricken with inexpressible admiration, wondring at the strange obiectes I beheld. Gazing thus on every side, like a Country-Gentlewoman at her first comming to a famous Citty, one clapt me upon the head, whose very sight did much affright me, that it was enough to have put me out of the wit I had: For the party I speake of was headed like Hydra, having more Tongues, then Esope provided for his Maisters dinner: and for eyes, he was no Cyclops, or Polypheme, but another Argus: The cloathes he wore, were for all the world fashioned like a fantasticall Englishmans, a gallimawfry of most Countrie cuts, but not of one Cloath, Stuffe, Sattin, Velvet, &c. as theirs are: For of one, two, three, foure colours, as for the most part theirs are; but here a peece of Velvet, there a peece of Vellure, here a peece of Sattin, there a peece of Sackcloath, filled with sundry patches of severall patternes, like a Taylors hole, or rather Hell, whereinto he casteth many bodies of men and women.

The description of Opinion.

This Monster seeing me so pittifully perplexed, told me that he was not so terrible as he seemed, and that his name was Opinion, so Headed, Sighted, Tongued and arrated, to shew the multiplicity, variety, and contrariety of mens Opinions, Fantasies, and Conceipts: And that the place wherein I then was, was named the Metropolitan Citie of the World, seeming indeed like Heaven it selfe, inhabited by Spirits of all sortes, adorned with Sunne and Moone, like a contributarie King and Queene, Set about with all the Signes of the Zodiack garnished with Planets, which like Rulers overswayed Sublunary Creatures: Beautified with Starres of three sortes, whereof some were tearmed Fixe, resembling vertuous and constant women, keeping in their Spheares, as in their houses. Others Errantes, wandring Starres, gadding like Gossips, which ride from Cities to Countries, running from their owne Mansions to Tauernes, from their husbands bosoms to other mens beds.

The

The third, Cadentes, that is, falling Starres, whereunto wantons may bee compared, which fall from the Heauen of Honesty, to the immouable masse of Vilenesse and immodesty: Forthwith he led mee through many Lanes and shewed me the Signes as wee passed along the heauen streete: Here (said hee) is Aries, the Signe of the Ramme: What the Ramme in fleetstreet thought I? This is Cancer the Signe of the Crabbe: Here is Virgo, the Signe of the Maide: That is a rare Signe indeede, many a young beginner would bee glad to dwell at that Signe: This is Scorpio, the Signe of the Scorpion, a venemous Serpent which hurteth with the taile: That is Capricornus, the Signe of the Goates head, some Cuckold languisheth there, while his wife laugheth abroad: This is Gemini the Signe of the Twinnes, there dwelleth a good member in the Commonwealth, which getteth two at once: Here is Leo the Signe of the Lyon: There is Libra, the Signe of the paire of Scales: Terras Astræa reliquit, Iustice hath forsaken the Earth, and keepeth shopp there: That is Sagittarius the Signe of the Archer, blinde Cupid maketh bird bolts there to dasle Woodcocks: This is Aquarius, the Signe of the Water bearer, I supposed at first a Vintener dwelled there, which carrieth so much water to quench the fire, which would else rise out of his Seller, till I gazed for a Bush and could see none, but the bush Beard of a Brewer: After he conducted me by the seauen Planets seauen Gates of this Cittie: The first and lowest he called Luna, which being then in the Eclips, I deemed the Postern Gate shut close: The second Sol the Sunne, which I resembled to Mooregate, because it is more delicious and pleasant then the Moone, with beames and raves, or rather rayes on the one side: The third Mercury the God of Theeues, Cheaters, Nymble-fingered fellowes, which made me call it Newgate: The fourth Venus, the Goddesse of Lone, which I tearmed Allgate, because all goe through that Gate: The fift Mars, which looked sternly like King Lud, whose very aspect at that time wrought in my conceipt that

The Postern
Mooregate.
Newgate.
Allgate.
Ludgate

I feard a Sergeant was dragging mee to Lud-gate: The first Iupiter, which I surmisd to be Alders-gate: The seauenth Saturne, olde, feeble, and decrepit, which I thought might somewhat fitly be nominated Cripple-gate: Are here all said I? I haue one gate yet, standing voyd to bee shut vp with a similitude: What gate is that said Opinion? It is Bishops-gate said I. Some Philosophers cauill about it said Opinion. But Aristotle and Plato make reckoning of an eight, which is called Sphæra octaua, that is, the firmament containing the fixed starres. Why then this Sphæra Octaua is Bishopgate, containing all the fixed starres: that is, the faithfull Ministers: And the Philosophers which cauill about it, are none but contentious Brownists, and Separaters: which because the eyes of their true vnderstanding are pluckt out, would plucke the whole house vpon their owne heads, to the ouerthrow of the Rulers. But let these Byasses passe by like asses, with bag & baggage to Anser-dame, so long as we haue Aristotle the Prince of Philosophers, and Plato the Diuine on our sides. Our gardens will prosper the better when they haue in them not one of these Elders, whereupon so many couetous Iudasses hang themselues.

Alders-gate.

Cripplegate.

Bishops gate.

By this time we had passed through al the Planets set about with starrs, like so many gates with watchmen; & were entred into the aire, the heauens suburbs: Here (quoth Opinion) you may daily behold diuers that passe to & fro from all parts to present their seuerall petitions to Fortune, & implore her aide for some good hap: which many times they obtaine, if their petitions go not through many hands: for then they are either lost or torn, or come to some friends hands, against whom they are preferred, and the Petitioners are checkt and called seditious knaues, and go home perhaps an hundred miles with a Flea in their eare.

Then me thought I was very importunate to know the seuerall suiters, that became so suppliant to Fortune; and euen as Opinion was telling me he would certifie me of them in order, Behold (quoth he) yonder is one trauelling a pace, that

that ministers matter to giue you some satisfaction. And as I was thus giuing my attendance, and obseruation, I might see a female comming, indeed a peart one she was, as ready to giue the welcome to her customers, as a boy in a barre, and as nimble as a Parasite in an old Comedie.

The harlot passeth by them.

FIe vpon her (said I) she will neuer haue good successe in her suite, she hath such Anticke attire, and doth so trip & go with her Petition: What? a woman of tall stature, and vpright body? (would she were as vpright in her life & behauiour) high browes, faire haire? (hath she not robbed the dead for it)? round cheeks, curr all lips, dimpled chin, sleeke necke, & slender waste? Tis good if they be not hooks to draw men in, & birdlime to tie the feathers of euery stranger, that none may escape them. But I feare she is (as some say of wanton women) like Circes witches, and can turne vaine glorius fooles into Asses, gluttonous fooles into Swine, pleasant fooles into Apes, proud fooles into Peacocks, and when she hath done, scourge them out of dores with a whip. The Harlot.

This is one (said Opinion) whose face is a painted Sepulcher, whereas her mind is a Tombe full of rotten bones and Serpents: her browes (like the Diamond) containe vertue to relieue, and poyson to kill: her lookes are like Calenders, that can determine no certainty, but (as a certaine leafe) which is most drie, when it lookes most moist: so when shee smiles, she imagines deceit, and her laughters are tempered with enuy & reuenge: her vows are but as words written in the wind: her promises Caracters figured in the aire: her flatteries, figures grauen in the Snow, which are blowne with the wind or melted with the Sun: and her loue, like the passage of a Serpent ouer a stone, which once past, can neuer be seene. She will promise mountaines, and perform Molehils. She will say she loues with Dido, and yet faine with Ctenda: follow Demophon with Phillis, and yet be more strag- The Opinion of a Harlot.

ling then Luna: she hath smiles (at her wish) to bewitch, and teares (at command) as the Crocodile, to betray. If thou proffer her any thing, she will pocket it at all: if thou hast gold, she is a Horseleach, and will not out of thy bosome: but shee hates an empty purse, as the Hyenna doth the sight of a man, and will flie from thee, when thou art poore, as the foule from the Faukon. In plaine termes, she is a proud prophane Harlot. And were she not prophane, what Atheist would frequent her? were she not bawdy, what Puncquatero would shew his rotten teeth to her? Were she not ridiculous, what country Gentiles would come to her? Were she not full of toyes and gewgawes, what Citizens would flocke to her? In a word, Were she not as she is, she would be like a Politician without a profound head, like a flatterer without a glib tongue, like an Astronomer without eyes, a Musitian without hearing, a Souldier without hands, a Porter without a strong backe, a Gentleman vsher without straite legs, a Lackey without feete, in no reputation. But it is not so with her, for she is a Bona Roga: and the Petition which she comes to present, must nods (no doubt) bring some good fruite, from that corrupt tree.

The Harlots Petition.

Vouchsafe to looke vpon the lines of your humble Petitioner, who from fifteene yeares of age hath bene a woman of no carriage, liuing alwaies chast both in towne and countrey, and haue had much dealing with many of great ability, till of late that I failed of your furtherance, and missed many of my customers. For whom, when I made a secret inquisition, and priuie search (fearing they had made a voyage to settle themselues in *Virginia*) I met some of them prepared for Tiburne, others I found enconntred with Counters, and some laid vp in houses of Hospitalitie: which vnexpected sight did so appale me, that forthwith I thought good to present this Petition vnto you: requesting that such as are my wel willers, may haue some longer continuance of your fauours, and not tast so sodainly of your frownes, (which will be my vtter vndoing) so long as they haue money or meanes. But when they are destitute

stitute of both, then cast them off, let them steale and be hanged: which if they deny, I wish you send them farre enough: for there is nothing more combersome, then impecunious hangers on.

There be also some of the officious (to whom I wish none of your fauours) as the onely causers of our ouerthrowes. For they hunt vs like Hares, & ferrit vs like Conyes. They tie vs to stakes like Beares, and whip vs like Iades. They driue vs from post to piller, that were we not predestinate as it were to liue chast, they would compell vs euen against our Fate to become chast, they do so chase vs from countrey to citie, from citie to suburbes, from houses and husbands, to cousens and allies, where we leade a life like brute beasts among grasse, trees; &c. Or liue like the old water-Nymphs, or Fairies (which pinched poore men) in wels & ditches. As Shorditch & Clarkenwell. I therefore sue to haue an *Habeas Corpus* serued vpon them, especially certaine little Annimals, called Beagles, who seeing poore Does prostrate before their feete, haue notwithstanding the heart to hurt, and draw blood from their ribbes and shoulders.

Where there is one of these officers, I would there were twentie.

Maddona Meretrix.

The Baude commeth to the Harlot.

GOe thy wayes, thy fooles bolt is shot a Cockheight against the starres, which will light vpon thine owne head. Here is a Petition indeed, if all Petitions should be granted. But there is another come vnto her, she should be a yong woman by her great belly: but now she yawneth, I see the marke is out of her mouth, she walloweth like a Sow with pigge, talketh very imperiously, & is clad most modestly But I mislike one thing, she cougheth so sorely, are her lungs sound?

The Baude.

Out vpon her (said Opinion) though she speake purely, sweare sparingly, looke demurely, and walke sagely, yet her life is loathsome, and behauior beastly. She hath her roguish

The opinion of a Baude.

Rhetoricke

Rhetorick at her fingers ends, and can winch, kicks, and fling when she seeth her opportunitie. She goeth to the Church with an ill will, vnlesse to picke a pocket, or to peruert some honest mans wife she is pued withall. But she will bestir her stumps to get easie roome in a Theater; and twenty to one she will lure some Bullard to dogge her home at the end of the Play. She liueth by vsury, but here is the difference: the vsurer putteth but ten (ouer & aboue) to his hundreth in the yeare. But she brings an hundreth to ten, nay to two sontimes in a weeke. Abhominable filth as she is, I wish thee to stop thy eares at her words, for she is a Mer-maide, or rather Mar-maide. *A filthie Baude.*

The Spendall passeth along.

The Spendall.

ROome for a Gentleman, mark the motion my Masters: his dublet is of the ragged ranke, with neuer a button on it, and his breeches are very faulty, they must be mended, I marueil he buyeth himselfe no better cloathes now his rents begun to come in so fast: Foure paire of yarn stockings would make no great shew vpon those spindle shankes: he looketh very Lentenly and commeth halting on.

The Opinion of the Spendal

This tottered Colt (said Opinion) which ones had high desires, hath now lowe fortunes; his thoughts were woont to reach at starres, but now stumble at stones. He was his fathers dotage, and his Mams darling: a toward Springall you will say, when he lay with his mothers Chambermaide at fifteene: and an vntoward Spendall, when he had lauished the first part of a Million before he knew fire and twentie Birth dayes. He did of late swim in gluttonny, but now is pinched with pennury. He was woont to deuise what to eat, and is now destitute of any food. He hath worne more vpon his backe then the gold (which procured passage for the Asse into the Castle) would defray. His quondam full seeding maketh him now look so emptily. His drinking so many healths hath taken all health from him: his so often leaping the pale, causeth him looke so pale: his close following the fashion, bringeth

bringeth him now (as you see) out of all forme and fashion: had he taken time before he might haue lodged in an house like a pallace, as he doth now in a place like a prison, lying like a Nutmeg in a Grate, being the Embleme of vnthriftinesse, the Hierogliphicke of Riot, the picture of the Prodigall, and the Indiuidium vagum of a poore pitifull penniles Spendall.

Most humbly sueth a cashierd Caualiere, no Gentleman yet a knights sonne and heire, being richly bequeathed, and well mannered, consorted with men of choice fashion, with women of famous report: much indebted to merchants, and greatly bound to their wiues. But at last wanting present meanes to repay the one, and competent matter to come euen with the other, which did put me to my plunges, that I was constrained to colleague with a Miser, *Qui nummos admirantur*: An vsurer that doth make much of money, who vpon some consideration of my good conditions did supply me for a time, but when Doomes-day came, that I should render an account for all, all was gone, my lands were seised vpon, my credite ceased, and I clapped vp amongst Bankrupts, and borrowers: where now I must lie like a forlorne wretch, euen readie to die for want of relieue: my friends pittie me, my enemies play vpon me. All flie from me, none come nye me, but mercilesse keepers, and miserable caytiffes, who make me remember what I learned long agoe. The Spendals Petition. The end of Riot.

Cum fueris felix multos numerabis amicos,
Nullus ad amissas ibit amicus opes.

When I was mounted vpon the chariot of Fortune, Gallants would conuerse with me, Lawyers giue attendance to my suites, Tradesmen cappe to me, Dependants crouch to me, Brokers borrow for me, Vsurers lend me, Flatterers extol me, lusty Lasses aduance me, stoope to me, and hang about my necke like goodly Iewels, as they proue. But now I am trampled vnder the wheele of Chance, all is turned topsie turuey, *Qui nuper albus eram, nunc fum con trarius albo.* Gallants in their Pasquill humours begin to gird at me. *Curia pauperibus clausa est.* Lawyers haue no feeling of my case: Tradesmen will haue

no commerce with me; Dependants hang downe their heads as if they were going to hanging: Brokers become boisterous: Vsurers misuse me. Thus am I vsed for vsing them: thus am I deceiued for trusting them: thus am I despised for imbracing them: thus am I become a castaway for casting away my money amongst them. Now there is no wealth left, they are all lost, now my gold is flowne they are all fled, and now am I in want, they are all vanished like vnto an empty cloude. Oh that you would but send some Reuenge vpon some of them, that others of my rancke, seeing some of their fals, may shun the like places, and amend their follies, and they themselues relent, and haue their remorseles hearts turned: if out of their bellies, honestye and vpright dealing should haue no great losse. *The Spendall.*

The Sergeant attends on him.

The Sergeant. WOuld all our Lusty Guts would looke in at this looking glasse. He was as well rigg'd a Pinnace, as some that make a greater shew, and as well mann'd till the boisterous blasts of his owne affections splitted him vpon the rocks of Riot. He was as louely as Læander, before he cast himselfe into the Sea of sensuality, and might in time haue proued a Co-adiuter of his countries weale, had hee closed his eares at the inweigling of Sea-Lures, and shut his mouth when Circe preferred him the cup to quaffe, which turned him to a beast, or more wretched then a beast in these daies, A beggar. But what is he that attendeth him so closely in the gowne.

The opinion of the Sergeant. It seemeth (said Opinion) that you neither trust nor are trusted: Either you haue stood in no need of money, or you want credit to borrow: or if you haue borrowed, you pay according to promise, and a[illegible]intment; else he would haue bene so bold as to haue clapp[illegible] vpon the shoulder, and bene better acquainted with [illegible], though you cared not greatly for his acquaintance, if euer you came into the precincts of his Iurisdiction: He is an Officer, whose office I disallow not, but

but diſlike ſome of his fratrernitie in their extreame execu-ting of their duties, which will fawne like Spaniels, on ſuch as bribe them, and will be inquiſitiue after them, where they are ſure they are not: But mercileſſe Furies to haunt out poore men, which are diſable to ſee, and feed them with re-wards, and that which ſheweth them to be no Chriſtians on the Sabboath day: He is at the beſt but a decayed Trades-man, or vnthrifty Occupier, which, how diſſolutely or baſe-ly ſoeuer he liued before, is good inough to be as he is, The quartaine Feuer to a Spendall: the Plague to bad Pay-maiſters: the Vſurers foiſting hound: a neceſſary nails in the fin-ger of the Common wealth to claw men by the poles.

A Sergeant.

The countrey Client paſſeth along.

The countrey Client.

HE hath neuer a Petition to preferre, vnleſſe againſt ſuch as are wiſe enough to keepe their money, while they haue it, and pay duly where they owe. But ſtay, what is he that nodeth next? if my eye-ſight faile me not, a ſhort cor-pulent fellow with a full face, and foule hands, couered like a Capeaſe all with leather, backt with a broad dagger, a long ſword which handleth the forepart of his ſlops very rigo-rouſly: now is his browne bonnet whipt betweene his legs, and he ſtands groping for his Petition.

The opinion of the Country Client.

This man (ſaid Opinion) you ſee ſo plainly attired, is quite tired with following the law: who, though he ſeeme ſo plaine, hath as many crooked conditions in his Coſtrell, as a ſlight of your fineſt faſhionmongers. If he be Churchwar-den, the Pariſhoner he maligneth, is ſummoned vpon ſuſpi-tion, if he giue but a well looking Laſſe a good morrow, or good night. If he be Conſtable, all the Alewiues are vndone: If his neighbour treſpaſſe againſt him, he will neuer for-giue him. He will worſhip any man for his commodity, but where he neither feareth nor hopeth. He is haile fellow, well met. Cocknies may laugh at him, as he laggeth along the

pauements, and Guls giggle when he passeth by their proper personages: but if he could get vantage he would make them pay for the whole dozen: Let him alone, whether he haue his Dates, Pease, or Beanes, yet he wanteth no fetches. Lend an eare to his Petition, if it be truly spelt, he will coniure somebody.

The contrey-Clyents Petition.

Long haue I liued, and grieued to see so many citizens become Bankrouts, when Lawyers flourish, and breath and braule to the vtter ruine and vndoing of such pooremen as my selfe, who hauing an homely wife and children at home, am compelled to come in *Coram* to this most deare Cittie, where I lie at exceeding charges, following the Law, which I faine would flie: But necessity hath no Law, for hauing no fees, I may find a Lawyer (adding but a Maister to it) who hath either no Law in his budget, or no conscience in his breast. So my case hath bene considered, and hung so long in Westminster hall, as my fathers Bowcase in mine owne hall, euer since he died, and left certaine lands to be parted amongst his sonnes, who, because we could not deuide them according to euery one of our contents, were contented to crouch to certaine Lawyers, who conceiuing the controuersie, and perceiuing vs at such variance, like our friends and welwillers promised to take *our parts*: and indeed not to belie them, they haue bene as good as their promises, and haue taken *our parts*, and not left vs an hole, or part to thrust our heads into. And now we lacke *vnde*: they come ouer vs with a *Quare*, which putteth vs into a *Quandary*, to be sent farre with neuer a farthing. It were ingratitude not to requite our welwillers and *partakers*, or at least, to wish wel vnto them that we cannot requite. My Petition therfore is, that you would conferre an hundreth marks or two vpon such Pillers, or rather Caterpillers, I mean such markes, as may marke them, to make others marke and beware of them. But for those rare, admirable, miraculous, honest, conscionable, graue deciders, which weigh the matter more then the money, preferre the Commonweale, more then their owne priuate wealth: pleade for the poore, as well

as

as Nobles: permit the not *guiltie*, ouerthrow the *guiltie*; I pray that they may liue many merry and Hillarie termes, for the good of their countrey, and profit of themselues, and their posteritie.

The countrey Client.

The Hostler followeth him.

Sure, said I, this Petition was neuer of his owne making, it is pincked so Pedantically, cut vpon fustian phrases, and bound about with Mocke-adoes. The Hostler

Resolue your selfe (answered Opinion) your countriman in many places is so metamorphosed in maners now a daies, and quaint tearmes, that you shall hardly distinguish Pan from Apollo, but by the habit, and so captious in words, that you can vtter no word that he will not equiuocate, if the Idiome will beare it. He speaketh so ambiguously, that if his speech be construed one way, he knoweth how to interpret it after another signification, & is not the man you take him, for if you take him for a plaine, silly, honest man at all times, and in euery respect. You haue said enough of him, but I pray you what is he for a man that doth follow him, he hath a sticke in his hand, which he whistleth as he leadeth the horse by the bridle. The Hostler leadeth the countrey Clients horse after him.

He is as full of complement as his maister an Innekeeper: You are welcome Gentlemen, is all his eloquence, and that he sheweth as well to a clowne, as a knight. At your entrance into his stable, he will be so obsequious and seruile, that he will wipe your very horses heeles. He stinketh like a Currycombe, and smelleth as ranke as Stale. He will giue your horse a pecke of prouender (if it be your pleasure) and steale halfe of it, if you eye him not narrowly. At night he filleth the racke with hay, but in the morning you shal not find an handfull, though your horse, nor any other by him eat not a mouth full. If you abide any long time and will hourely looke vnto your beast, as it is best (for the eye of the maister maketh The opinion of a knaue Hostler.

the horſe fat) he can take order for his eating ouermuch, by greaſing his teeth with a tallow candle. He loueth drinke likely, and a mad if he be not married. He hath no yearely wages of his maiſter to maintaine him, but that which gueſts beſtow vpon him. To be briefe with him: at your departure, if you giue him any thing in the chamber, when you make cleare with the houſe, he hath a ſwitch in one hand, and the bridle turned ouer the maine of your horſe, ſtanding in readineſſe, to hold your ſtirrop ſteadfaſtly, and bid you heartily farewell: But if he finde you miſerable, your ſaddle girts are tied but ſlackly, and if you like them not, you may mend them your ſelfe, and if you looke not before you leape, you may perchance rue it. But he will hold your ſtirrop if you bid him, he dare not deny it, it is a ſpeciall point of his profeſſion, but ſlackely, and with the head on the one ſide: and he will bid you farewell (as his maiſter may heare) and be hanged, (that he muttereth to himſelfe.) Though he be a knaue, yet he is a man of great calling (eſpecially when trauellers ride early on their iourney.

An Hoſtler.

The old Seruingman paſſeth along.

The old Seruingman.

Ecce autem alterum, Behold a blew coate with neuer a badge on it, the crowne of his head like a Franciſcans, Leno in facie, he looketh leane in the face, and lanke in the belly: All his apparrell looſe as though they were caſt, a ſigne of a weake ſtomacke to beare ſtrong liquour. Looke how he kiſſeth his hand as if he were in loue with it, and licketh the ſuperficies of the floore with his knees. Fie vpon it, how ſeruitorious he is in deliuering his Petition. Thoſe lowe legs, and kiſſing the hand (if he can cogge, and lie to) would get him a ſeruice with ſome in the world, if he would ſerue three or foure yeares for no wages, he would haue halfe a crowne at parting.

Nay (ſaid Opinion) he hath bene long enough in that predicament,

dicament, and now can shew nought of his getting, vnlesse children he dare not father. He was a pretty boy, an handsome strippling, a proper man: peeuish in his childhood, proud in his youth, and prodigall in his best yeares: He hath wasted his portion in hope of preferment: spent his substance, loking for aduancement; consumed quite all, in expectation of some requitall. His greatest felicitie was to court the chambermaids in some corner, & his chiefe exercise to make his maisters friends [a] dependants drunke. He was trained vp in some parte of a toyners trade to make legs, and the best part of his Rhetoricke was, I forsooth, and No forsooth. The iniunctions that he was tied to, were to rise at all houres, and to ride in all seasons, eating that which was left, wearing that which was left, and marrying oftentimes that which his maister left. Which sheweth what he was, and is the [b] Anteambulo of a Gentlewoman, the [c] Subsequent of a Gentleman, the [d] Presedent of a Portmantle, or a Cloake bagge.

The opinion of the old Seruingman

[a] Seruingmen.

[b] One that goeth before.

[c] One that followeth.

[d] One that sitteth before.

An old Seruingman, a young beggar.

Not without cause do I creepe to you with my Petition, praying either better fortune hereafter, or reuenge vpon them that haue so slighted me off heretofore; who from my youth was brought vp in seruice, not in Gods seruice, but in the seruice of man and woman, waiting for that which now I shall neuer get, because I can waite no longer. So long as I was strong, I was backt with something: so long as I could performe all seruiceable duties, I wanted for no promises. But Time which turneth all things, hath turned me out of seruice, and Age which altereth all men, hath changed me from the top of Fauour to the toe of Contempt. Being now vsed like an old horse, my cloake plucked of my backe, as his skin: Or an old dogge, kickt with disdaine of euery vpstart. Thus haue I bene serued for all my seruing: gained a daintie dish, for carying so many daintie dishes: got a goodly catch, for all my watching, and catching cold, for all my running, and riding, tending, and tendering the welfare of those, which consider none,

The old Seruingmans petition.

none, but themselues. A man were better serue hogges, then some men, many wiues, most widdowes. Yet I would be loth to be misconstrued, or thought to censure any, but curious fooles, that none can please: ingratefull wretches, which although a man hath spent the prime of his youth, hindered his fortunes, discharged the part of a faithfull steward, when his beautie fadeth, and strength faileth, will thrust him from them (because he cannot performe his wonted charge) without recompence or remorse. For the world knoweth, and thousands acknowledge, the munificent liberalitie of true Gentry, extended towards them, who by seruice haue climbed vp to honour, their maisters not enuying them, but lending their own hand and strength to their ascentions, whose childrens children are bound to pray for them: when others, respected like my selfe, are forced to become humble Petitioners as I am, and are contrarily indebted, to them and theirs, if they do not degenerate from their Predecessors.

The old Seruingman.

The widdow with the old Seruingman.

The Widdow

WEll (thought I) though the fellow haue gained smal wages, yet hath he great words (whersoeuer he got them) and can say something for himselfe, though it auaile him little. Let him be trauelling towards Beggers bush, and thinke of his sinnes in his masters Buttery. But stay awhile he is in communication with a seeming well demeaned woman, somewhat stricken in yeares, yet well fauoured, and not past marriage.

The opinion of the widdow.

She may do well you thinke (said Opinion) to make him a man, which made her a woman, when time was (or else there are liers.) But if she be wise, she will not hazard her goods and her selfe. That she hath she is sure of, and put the case she wanteth any thing for selfe, it will be lesse care, then to haue another to lash it out. The wilde colt may proue a tame horse, but a wilde youth is oftentimes a wilfull man.

Vincere

Vincere consuetudinem dura est pugna. It is a hard conflict to subdue custome. She leadeth now a single life (a singular life) she hath her necke out of the yoke, she need not thrust it into it againe, vnlesse she lust. If she can keepe her selfe as she is, she is well and a wealthy Widdow.

The maide gotten with childe commeth along.

LEt them goe together on Gods name (said I) but hei mihi, what a wofull spectacle is this? faciem pulchram, an amiable face, and lonely looke: Prettie soule, why doth she pouder those fresh cheekes with salt teares? Alas, she can scarce wallow, her belly is so full, yet she toggeth along, though euery foote she looketh to lie downe. The maide gotten with childe.

This is one (answered Opinion) whom Nature hath imbellished with her rarest ornaments, but fortune furnished with none of her riches. She was poore, therefore despaired of an husband. Light of beliefe, therefore at this time heauy bellied. Another Dido to beleeue some wandering AEneas: another AEnone to credite some wandring Paris: another Phillis to trust some swearing Demophon. He promised, and hath fulfilled (but I do not say his promise.) Because he sware he would neuer forsake her, she supposed he would surely haue her: as though he which maketh no scruple to breake the seuenth Commandement, will make any conscience to keepe the third. The apples were faire, the tree comely, and the diuell at hand made her fall to them, which procured her fall, and that fall was the cause of this swelling. The opinion of the maide with child.

If euer any might proffer a Petition for right, or reuenge, I haue as great reason as any. Being a pure and vntoucht virgin, voted to Vesta, and deuoted to Chastity, till a venerous villaine with daily assaults and nightly trecheries, neuer left battering the weake bulwarke of my heart with piercing words, vowes, oaths, & protestations, darted from his smooth tongue, till he had surprised me. Hearing him oftentimes sweare, seeing him teare his haire, nay, which is more strange The Petition of the maid with childe.

for a man, weepe in most seeming sadnesse, kisse my hand with feare and trembling, and voluntarily proffer, and performe much seruitude, which I neither desired nor deserued. Being guiltlesse of effecting deceit, was free from suspecting: fearing to breake an oath, or violate a vow, trusted that he had bene possessed with the like feare, (as he was not) at last condescended. Which so soone as he had accomplished, he left me: It is no glory to deceiue a maide, no manhood to ouerthrow the weaker vessell. Yet being outwardly garnished with the gorgeous workmanship of Art and Nature, what labour will not some men take to attaine this vessell? what watchings will they not vndergoe? what wealth will they not waste to compasse it? And when they haue gotten it, how do they esteeme it? euen a toy to be plaid with for a time, and after too. For so soone as they eye another deuice, they cast away the old, and neuer are in quiet till they are fingering the new, Fie vpon such, they are like warriours of old time, which would spend much cost, and labour to subdue a citie, and when they had brought it into subiection, they would instantly leaue it, and so march to another, &c. Or like the fantasticall fellowes of our time, which cannot keepe long in one cut, but euery foot haue a fling at a new fashion: but all not so, and I would there were fewer that are so.

The maide with childe.

The Parriter rideth after the maide with childe.

The Parriter

I See one a farre off, riding as it were to this maide, he will not be here very soone, he is so ill horsed. In the meane time I will acquaint you with a iest not vnfit to be inserted in this place. There was a prettie maide which in her time had many suiters, the first whereof was verie vrgent to haue his delights with her (as I heard a crooked legd knaue terme it: she being a tender hearted thing, as it seemed this was, after a little wilfull waywardnesse was wonne, and lost

together

together. After he had forsaken her, a second came, and serued her in like manner: then a third, and after a fourth. (birds of a feather, they flew all after the foremost.) Being thus handled, she began to ware warie, and forswore trusting. In this resolution a fifth came vnto her, whose condition was to trie all, and if they did agree, he would come no more there. This Gentleman wooing the foresaid supposed maide, set his wit and wealth vpon the tenters, to obtaine his purpose, but nothing could preuaile. She rayled most egregiously against his dishonest and vniust request, and scorned the motion: which pleased him very well (though he seemed discontented) and married her. The second night they lay together, he began to speake thus vnto her: Thou knowest (sweet heart) how earnest I was to lie with thee before I might lawfully; and I protest, if thou hadst suffered me, we had neuer bene married together. The wife, whether she was halfe a sleepe, or ouer ioyed, or had the heart of an Owle (which they say causeth women to reueale their secrets) laide to her left pappe, answered him thus. Nay, nay husband, I was wise enough for that, I trow: for three or foure had serued me so before I euer beheld your face. This tale I thought meete to set downe in this place, that if any maide chance to reade ouer this booke, she might take heed how she dishoner her selfe with any, whether she marrieth or marrieth not, for it will breed future iealousie, though she neuer after deserue it. But now the horseman is alighted and readeth something to the maide gotten with childe, what he is I cannot certainly say, but I do not like his looks, nor that peece of parchment in his hand.

Gesner.

The Pariter seruetn a Processe, &c.

I will not runne (said Opinion) into any particulars with him, he is better knowne in the countrey then in the citie. And whosoeuer are intus, or in cute (as I may speake) acquainted with him, know him to be an honest man, or a knaue

The Opinion of the Pariter.

Pariter.

A strange Foot-Post.

The reiected louer walketh along.

The Louer.

LEt him returne that answer to the Court, and see if they can haue an action of slander against you, and obserue him now that commeth next with his Petition, so trimly triched vp: not a haire amisse with him, vnlesse that which hangeth on the one side of his shoulder, what a pourblinde Barber was he which polled him last. Come a little nearer me, I see now, he can make his old cloake serue the turne, in the last edition newly corrected and augmented, laced and interlaced. He hath a stiffe necke, which God hateth, and a strait dublet, which no faithfull drunkard can indure, for if he had it but one sitting, he would not leaue it worth a button: but the fashion of his breeches, sure he had an honest Tayler, else her might haue taken as much from both the out sides next his knees as would haue made him two ends of a wallet, which now are very like a paire of Smiths bellowes, standing with the smallest ends vpwards. A sweet youth no doubt, for he hath two Roses on his shoes to qualliffe the smell of his feete if he haue no sockes, or one would make a Pope of him, and kisse his toe. But why doth he sigh so deepely, and looke so sleepily?

The description of the Louer.

This finicall fellow is no foole, although he be none of the wisest: he cares no more for money (if he haue it) so he may please his mistresse, then for such mettall as serues onely for seruile exchange: He can fit his humour to euery estate. If he be among Schollers he hath Aristotle at his fingers ends and euery phrase smels of Cicero. He can shew wit in quirks of Sophistry, and reading in disputations of Philosophy. Amongst Courtiers he can braue it out as well as the rest, and court women, with most louing and amorous prattle: with them he is in his Q. and keepes the old text, Bonum est nobis esse hic. But their company so besots him, that he forgetteth with Vlysses to stop his eares, and therefore the Syrens put him to shipwracke. He carrieth not the Antidote of Caueat Emptor, against the alluring baites of their beautie, and therefore Folly (for the most part) is his next hauen.

He

He remembers not, that the eyes of wicked women are snares, and their words charmes; that their deceipt is most, their desires more, and their tonetonsnesse most; which the more it drinkes the more thirsty it is: their consciences like a Pomice stone, light, and full of holes: whose loues are for lucre, whose hearts are light on his person, and whose hands are heauy on his purse. If he hit vpon a Cortezan that is a little coy, though she be altogether vnchast, his delight is to be on her lappe: there he lies at racke and manger, & thinkes there are no more maids then Malkin. There he sitteth like Sardanapalus, dallying with the flame, till he burne in the fire. So as in the end, comming home by weeping Crosse, he buyeth repentance with too deare a price, and becommeth at last, A fond, despised, and reiected Louer. The Louers Petition.

Being worne with griefe, and wasted with discontent, I am constrained to seeke remedy and some ease to my minde, which you may affoord by doing reuenge vpon an inconstant Female, who plighted her faith to me, & priuatly proclaimed me the sole Lord of her Microcosm: but before I was installed I was forestalled by the vndermining perswasions of a trecherous vsurper, who with his seruile curtesies hath insinuated himself into my dominiõs. Who would trust the wind? A womans words: who would relie vpon a broken reed? a womans oath. They sigh for them that hate them, and laugh at most that loue them. They will haue some that will not, and will haue few that would faine. Some feeling of their folly had he, which when he beheld his neighbors wife hang her selfe vpon one of the trees in her husbands orchyard, requested a graft of the same tree, to see if it would beare any more of the like fruite. And no light burthen did that passenger account his wife, who, when the rest in the ship were willed to cast all the bagge and baggage, which did surcharge it, ouerboord, was most willing to hurry his wife into the Sea. Some to shew their learning, or rather ignorance, may make large volumes of *Encomions* in their behalfes, and get perhaps a *Iudas* knife, or a flap with a Foxe taile for their labours. For me this hath beene

or read any thing at all of this *Common place*, shall finde for one *Vesta*, many vitious; for one *Diana*, many darlings; for one *Lucrece*, many lasciuious: did neuer any but *Semeramis* lie with her owne sonne? Did neuer any but *Mirrha* twine with her owne father? Did neuer any but *Biblis* dote vpon her own brother? Did neuer any mistresse but *Iosephus* tempt her household seruants? One is no number, I would there were no number of these ones, vpon which if you fall, you will bee

The forlorne Louer.

The countrey Schoolemaister commeth to the Louer.

The Countrey Schoolemaster.

IT is happy you are so short, else we had bene wearied with your lowely Petition. Me thinkes yonder is one that cringeth to him: all his apparell is not worth one Marke, yet he hath a hat on his head of the Spanish bloche: put the blocke and his head together and see what they spell. Well done honest genus and species (for thou seemest inclining as it were, that way by thy habite, and pen and inkehorne) reade a peece of Ouid de Remedio amoris to him, for though he raile unreasonably against women, yet I am perswaded he doth chastise them, non quod odio habet, sed quod amat.

The Opinion of the countrey Schoolemaster.

Atque hoc humanum est (said Opinion) This man you see which maketh such action with his hands, as he talketh with the Louer, is one that keepeth a foule soyle in the Chansell or Belfrie of a Church. He is a most horrible Tyrant ouer little children, and makes their breeches quauer with the shake of his Scepter, alias ỹ Rod. He getteth his liuing, non per se, but for the most part, per accidens. Yet he can teach Grammer and AEsops Fables, for he hath them both in print, translated verbum de verbo. Howsoeuer schollers do esteeme of him, ignorant Hobnailes hold him for a rare Scholler, for he will speake Latine amongst them extrumpere, and scan verses at his fingers ends. He is a man of sharpe learning, which peeceth hard words: he worketh by Rule, like a Carpenter,

penter, and can cast a figure, as if he were a coniurer. He is very curious, and standeth much a vpon points, he may fitly be coupled with the Louer. For either he is enamoured of his own good parts, or in loue with the waiting maid, if he tabled in a Gentleman house, & sometimes winneth her goodwill, but neuer can get her friends consent. To be briefe with him, as hee is with his infants, a word and a blow: Hee is the outside of a Scholler, an imperious commander ouer boyes and wenches, the head maister of the Pæpe-taile trade

A Pedant.

The old woman married to a yong man commeth next.

SO let them all walke Newgate fashion, two by two: Who is that which hobleth next? Christ blesse the woman: so, wipe your mouth with your Handkerchiefe after your coughing and spitting. Her forehead is wrinckled like a paper lanthorne, which boyes make: with two thinne cheekes, like two washt trenchers, betweene which, her nose seemeth like the socket, wherein the snot stands like a peece of a farthing Candle. Her mouth like a Caue with two clap doores, to wit, her two lips, without a bolt, that is without a teeth, containing a Pilgrime, a wandring tongue, which mouth (like a Caue) standeth like a Caue betweene two sharpe pointed hils, whose tops do almost touch one another, her Nose and her Chinne. The old woman married to a young man.

Mocke Age (said Opinion) and see how you will thriue. This toothlesse, sapleſſe, senceleſſe Beldam, was wife to an honest substantiall man, who during his youth endured much labour in gathering riches to maintaine himselfe in yeares, and her, if she should be superstes, or out liue him, as she hath. So she had all he left (which was sufficient) at her owne disposing, who was bad enough disposed as it seemed: For as soone as her husband was surely buried, she was all on the hoite, she could not lie alone. An husband was all her care, and many graue men she had choice of, but she gaue small intertaine- The opinion of the old woman married to the yong man.

tertainment to any of their haire, she had rather haue the legge of a Larke, then the body of a Kite: yet the feathers hang in her Maw, which she cannot digest nor vomite, till death lance her throate with his razor. Her Petition will reueale all, for women cannot keepe their owne secrets. Onely this, she is, as it were, a bush of thornes thrust to the hinder parts of a Colt. A verie old woman married to a young man.

The Petition of the old woman married to the yong man.

Though I might haue bene better aduised by my friends, forewarning (I confesse) yet since I am in the like pickle as others, and haue had no lesse misfortune then they, I may water my woes, and cannot chuse but put vp my Petition with theirs. Who as it is well knowne, was wealthy, and therefore soone wonne: an old woman, and therefore sooneſt wronged by a beggerly varlet: who at my first view seemed so ciuilly behaued, as none could mislike him: so well proportioned, as I could not chuse but like him especially hauing an honest vocation, as he professed, and was well descended though a yonger brother, which had his portion to take, as he brought me Certificate. But now I perceiue these were but trickes to catch Dotterils. His smooth tongue being his onely friend, the sleight and craft of his hands, his onely *handie-craft*, his proportion his onely *portion*, which he had to take. For after wee were married he soothed me vp, till I shewed him my substance, and improuidently without any further trial, committed it to his tuition: which when he had made sure, he handled me most ingratefully: neuer touching my lips but with his fist, nor warming my sides, but with an ell I vsed to measure cloath: alledging that if I exclaimed against him, he might safely sweare, he did neuer beate me without measure. Hee would not be contented to waste himselfe and my riches amongst whores and roysters all the day: but at vnseasonable times, when I was in bed, ruffin into my house with his queans at his heels, & rouse me out of my rest: make me to remake my bed with fresh sheets for his Truls, & would leape in amongst them, I being compelled to hold the candle to the Diuell,

whilest

whilest he did his deeds of darkenesse: Thus did he vse me, till I complained to Authoritie which relieued me, reuiled and extruded him my house and company. Then did he depart like a Sheepe-biter, retiring himselfe into a priuate chamber, cast off his guilded Rapier, spruce leather Boots, and Spurres, got him a Cloake without laces, made a Dublet with a falling choller, wore Gloues of sixepence a paire on his hands: no points on his Breeches, but at the waistband: a paire of sad coloured stockings, tied vp straight with Garters no broader then an Vsurers belt, and his Shooe-latches bound together with russet Inckle: frequented Sermons, sent me most passionate letters, that he had renounced Roisters, abiured whores, setled himhimselfe to a stayed and religious course, and that he shamed to appeare in the place I dwelled, he had so wronged me and himself. But if I would go into the country with him, he would purchace some conuenient place, where he might liue solitarie from all company, but my selfe, and seruants. His fained repentance seemed so heartie, and his flattering lines wrought so with me, that we became attoned, made money of all, and went together, and for three or foure dayes he vsed me kindly and lay very quietly with me in the nights, but the fifth night (being farre from my friends) when I was fast asleepe, and neuer dreamed of any such matter, stole all I had, & ranne away. what way I cannot heare, or learne any tidings.

The old woman married with the yong man.

The Clarke commeth to the old woman.

THis is the end of liquorice, when a woman hath neuer a tooth in her head to chaw it. At a glimpse I see a young man with her. Hath she not yet abandoned the company of men without beards? If hee be not the man she spoke so much of, what is he? The Clarke.

He is one that you shall seldome see without cleane linnen, he weareth good cloathes, and can write a legible hand: hee The opinion of a Clarke.

hath a little learning, and will shew it all if you conferre with him: when he rideth abroad with his master, hee carrieth two hats, and walketh with a case of Rapiers, one by his side, the other in his hand, his masters and his owne. At dinner or supper, either at home or elsewhere, he waiteth at his masters elbowe with a trencher at his backe, yet hee can reach a cleane boorder to any of the table, if he take a liking to the peece he hath on his foule trencher, he marrieth his masters daughter sometimes, which hee hath stolne away, (God a mercie Opportunitie.) He can make bonds and obligations to pleasure the parish, if their Vicar haue not so much Latine, and indite a loue letter for himselfe or his fellowes: if any misdemeanour be committed neare him, when complaint is made thereof, he writeth warrants to apprehend the offendors. He is a Justices Clarke, which may warrant this old woman forgetting her husband or her goods againe, though she pray, and pay neuer so many warrants.

The yong woman commeth married to an old man.

The young woman.

Another passeth on passing portly, a sweete woman, she sweeteth hither: and a rolling eye she hath, it turneth with a trice on both sides: a faire haire, if it be her owne: a rare face if it be not painted: a white shinne, if it be not plastered: a full breast, if it be not bolstered: a straite backe, if it be not helped: a slender waste, if it be not pinched: a likely legge if it be not lined: a pretty foote if it be not in the Shoomakers stockes: a faire, rare, sweete, meete body, if it be not dishonest.

The opinion of the young woman married to the old Man.

Your suppose pose me (said Opinion) neither can I say or gainesay. Nature in beautie is better then Art; yet Art in shew surpasseth Nature. She is proudly attired, yet perchance humbly minded: loftily aduanced, yet it may be lowly descended: vildly suspected, yet peraduenture vertuously addicted. The world now adaies is rounde with such as shee is,

is, and to rash in their censures: condemning such as are innocent, and quitting many that are culpable: but that which is past mending is past medling with all. Therefore leaue it, and looke vpon this lustre: faire she is and vertuous: riches she enioyes, yet hath no great ioy of riches: married she is, yet I make question, whether she bee a maide or no, being a young woman married to a verie olde iealous man.

The Petition of the young Woman maried to the old Man.

My requests are not vnreasonable, nor voide of good cause, being a woman of tender age, as your eyes may witnesse, and of a vexed spirit, as these lines will manifest: that would chuse rather to be laide in my graue then on my bed; feede of the wormes, then eate with such a wormе-eaten old iealous husband as I doe: whose age I doe reuerence, and find fault with no deformitie, which time hath thrust vpon him, but with his causlesse suspitions, and immerited mistrusts of me. For did he hemme more then a towne of Taylers, or hawke oftner then a countrey of Faulkners, I could endure it. I am so enured thereunto: were the parts of his body neuer so *nauseas* & detestable, I could away with thē, so his reason were sound and sauory: but his wisdome (like his eyes) is sunke into his head, too farre for hereafter appearing: his will stronger then his breath: his vnderstanding feebler then his fingers: and his iudgement corrupter then his body. It is an admiration to see the difference of some of his yeares, how directly they will talke, what maiestie is in their lookes, what wisedome in their discourse? Not a word without his weight, not a sentence without good sence: not a deed vnlesse absolutely performed. They will blame nothing that is not blame worthie, nor condemne any without assured reason. But my *Zelotipus* raileth without reason, knocks his staffe against the stones, blames me without offence. Oh that some good Fortune would therefore cure me of this care, and salue me of this sorrow: For neuer shall I reape dayes rest, nights content, houres quiet, minutes mirth, so long as I haue this impostume in my head, this pinne and webbe in mine eye, this canker in my

The praise of some olde Men.

nose, this scabbe on my lippe, this iealous old husband.

The young woman married with a very old iealous man.

Now I heare this Petition, it bringeth into my minde a merry conceit. There was a very old man, which married a maide, who meeting a friend of his, did importune him to know what the people spake of his marriage. Who made him this answer: There was a poore man which had but one pecke of corne to grinde, and would needs build a Mill to grinde it, and when he had ground his corne, the mill stood emptie, so that afterwards all the neighbours came to grinde their grists there. This I inferre, not to defame any, but to shew how ready the world is to speake the worst.

What soeuer you say (said Opinion) vnequall marriages doe marre ages, and such made matches as these, proue but mad matches, yet of the two, I hold it more conuient that old Tithon should haue a fresh Amora, then an aged woman to be linked in matrimony with a beardlesse boy.

The Cuckold passeth along.

The Cuckold. Sufficient for this theame, another doth appeare or rather peere. Heauens secure my sences, if I be not distracted, he is a Proteus, a Camelion, an Omnigatherum, God make him an honest man, for I would be loath to make any one such a one as he is.

The Opinion of a Cuckold. He will trouble me to paint him, (said Opinion) I know not what colours to lay vpon his face, for sometimes he is of a sanguine complexion, sometimes he looketh pale, sometimes tawny, or Moritawny, like Tobacco. Neither can I tell how to frame him, for he is sometimes tall, sometimes lowe, sometimes grosse, sometimes gracile. Nor expresly say what vocation he is of, for sometimes he is a Citizen, sometimes a Farmer sometimes a Lawyer, sometimes a Scholler, &c. He hath a proper woman to his wife, yet common, he toyleth to maintaine other mens labours, yet he reapeth that which he neuer wrought for, he wasteth all the corne in his owne hatches on other mens Barnes, yet he keepeth that which he neuer got, But to draw you out of this Labirinth

with

with one line, Cornu ferit ille, If he haue not Cornes on his Toes, he hath Hornes on his Head. He is his wiues foole amongst her copesmates, wanton wenches pastime amongst themselues, and wagges game to play at with two fingers.

A Cuckold.

The Cuckolds Petition.

Loath I am to bewray my griefes vnto you, did not the loathing of the life I lead egge mee against my nature to wish that I would not: I haue many yeares beene bound in a bond, which hath vndone mee, yoaked with a curtall which hath plaide me many Iades trickes, a wanton wayward wel fauoured wife: who falsifying her faith and breaking the bondes she sealed most solempnely before a congregation, doth often that which shame sylenceth me for vttering. I dare not meete her, she keepes such couragious company I cannot content her any way, she hath outwardly what she likes vnwardly: and what she thrustes away with one finger, she pulles againe with both her hands: when I fawne on her, she will be froward: If I be but a little absent, she wishes my presence. Her thoughtes are like Babyes fancies, that will, and will not. My deedes cannot suffice her, for she is a woman. My speech cannot please her she is so captious, nor my lookes like her, she is so curious. None feele the rages of deseases, but they which haue them. None so truly knowe the torments of hell, as they which feele them? Nor any feeleth the torments, or knoweth the rages, that I doe, vnlesse he liue in such an hell, or haue the like desease, as I haue. Many, are haunted with hagges, but neuer any with such an haggarde: They liue caute though not caste: but my *Venus* lyeth so visibly in her Networkes, that not only Gods eyes, but mens behold her. Yet fayne would I reforme her, but neither faire meanes can perswade her, nor fowle scarre her. If I indeauour with good counsell to diffawde her from her former follies, her answer is, I preach too learnedly for her to edify by me. If I plead plainely with her, then at the next word, I am Sir Iohn Lacklatine: If I can collect some witty saying fit for my purpose, that will touche her to the quicke, then she saith,

I am all wit, or a wit all: If I threaten her, she hath enough to shield her: If I mention but a bill of diuorcement, it is her only desire: If I keepe her short of money, shee makes deuillish oathes and vowes that shee will haue Money, or some body shal pay for it: if I for quietnes sake should lock her vp into her chamber, the next time I stirre abroad, I am arrested for some debt of hers, which shee ranne into for such a purpose.

In me turba ruunt luxuriosa proci;
In meâ regnant, nullis prohibentibus, aulâ.

Neuer shall I enioy rest, so long as shee and I breath together. Such therefore as haue not the same causes of complaintes as I haue, and yet liue not contented I wish their fortunes to bee, that they may be troubled with my paine and head-ache.

The Cuckold,

The olde Souldier commeth along.

The old Souldier.

But stay, heeres an other limpeth a long: pitty a mee, an Hetaroclite, hee lacketh an hande. There are scarres on his face, would scarre a timorous body to behold: he looketh grauely, as though he had not long to liue, and leaneth vpon his trunchion, as if his body were about to fall away: come alongst lustily, and halt not before thy freinds. Sure hee is a man of worth for hee hath his hangers on.

The Opinion of the old Souldier.

Your iests (said Opinion) are too tart, and your merryment ouer much vpon so monefull a Man, which desecueth to be pittyed, rather then to be plaide vpon, and meriteth releife more then mocking. He hath borne Armes, howsoeuer now hee be disarmed: he hath had a sword to sticke by him, though now he hath no other weapon then a sticke in his hand: he hath lost his limmes but not in some druncken fray, and got those Cycatrices, but not in the defence of any Cocatrices: He hath fought against the walles of the enemy but neuer fought against any for the wall, as he walked in the streete. He will not stabbe for the lye, and yet he will

not

not take the lye in his Countries disgrace. Hee is none of your swashing Captaines, that vsurpe the title, when they neuer fought vnder any coulours but Venus-es: and they will dye rather then they will flye from her coulours. Neuer handled peece, vnlesse of meat, bread &c. Neuer discharged shot vnles in a Tauerne where they met with too hot shots sometimes for their discharging. Neither is he any of your counterfet Duello's, discoursing of battailes they neuer came neare, telling of monsters they neuer beheld, vnles in a painted cloath: swearing they were hurt in the defence of Christianity against Mahomotistes, when if they were wounded, it was at Gropne at farthest. He is no Triton of his owne praises: nor Chronologer of his olde exploites. he is an arrant Coward in wrangling brawles, a more Crauen in vniust conflictes, a very Pigmey in paltrey frayes: but in a iust cause as valorous as Hector, and as puissant as Hercules, a true, faithfull and religious Souldier.

The Petition of the old Souldier.

My humble sute is for better Fortune, for men are now become so ingratefull and hard hearted, that they doe not consider those which haue bene their friends, nor reward such as when neede serued, warded them from imminent distresses: the times past no man thinkes vpon: the time to come few dreame of: but all are for the time present. A Souldier hath helped them, and now God helpe Souldiers, for not many will: a souldier may helpe them, and then may helpe himselfe, and then they will helpe him also: but now a Souldier doth them no good, and therefore they will doe him as little. They liue in peace, that bringeth plentie, and that pride: but pride may haue a fall, and peace and plentie their hoods turnd ouer their heads: which I neither wish nor pray for, but if they haue, *Spernitur orator bonus, horridus miles amatur.* In the meane time, we, who haue wholly decayed our limbes, and impouerished our estates in the warres, may shew our scarres to vncompassionate eyes, and receaue no further helpe then *Christ helpe you*, good words, *would we were able*: good wishes for themselues: when as the superfluitie of one paire of their

shoe-tyes

ſhoe-ties would yeeld vs much comfort: but I cannot, neither will I goe about to condemne any abſolutely, the world is ſo peſtered with idle vagabonds, which vnder the name of Souldiers and forged paſports, haue ſo wronged ſome, that it withdraweth the hearts of moſt from conferring their benevolence vpon any: for I am perſwaded that no true borne ſpirit will deny ſome reliefe to a true Souldiers in his want. And Preheminence hath allowed them well, though it be ill enough diſtributed in ſome places: the fault is not in the giuers, but of inferiours which are put in truſt to diſpoſe it. But the God of war hath ſo many *Apoſtataes*, that the true borne, fare the worſe for the illegitimate. This boone I therefore craue, that all the ranks of rogues, and runnagates, ſhrouding themſelues in the caſt-ſuites of Souldiers, might be rooted out, or ſent vpon a boone voyage to the new found Land, by which meanes Hens & Capons may ſit at rooſt quietly in the night, and pecke about the garth all the day: ſhirts and other naperie hang vpon hedges, till the Sun ſet, ſhops be kept ſhut, and windowes ſtand vvide open to let in aire, vvithout feare of Creepers, to the great comfort both of citie, and countrey.

The old Souldier.

The Prentiſe cometh along.

The Prentiſe. When the Lion was old, the Aſſe rame and kicked him: and when a Souldier hath loſt his limmes, euerie coward will crow ouer him. I would ſay more in thy behalfe, and doe as much as I ſpeake, if I were able. But I amanticipated by the ſpeedie entrance of another, with his cloake clapt vnder his left Arme. A prettie youth, very decently apparelled, but he goeth very faſt, as if he went of an errant. What may he be.

The opinion of the Prentiſe. He may be a man (ſaid Opinion) if he liue, an honeſt man man if he liue vpright. A ſound man, if he flie ſurfets, and whores: a thriuing man if he ſhunne riotous company: a rich man, if he be thriuing: a Sheriffe, if he be a rich man:

an

An Alderman if he be a Sheriff: a Maior, if he be an Alderman: a Knight if he be a Maior: But yet he is a Prentise.

Diuers are the calamities of some of my rancke, and many the miseries they are exposed to, faring hardly, and labouring hardly: but such as will we are Gold must get it, they which will wynne honour must wage with many aduentures: He which thincketh to proffit must cashier the very thought of pleasure, Ryding with care and running with paine: Sitting with prouidence, and lying with consideration: Eating with frugality and drincking with moderation: Synce therefore honorable men must endeauour for Renowne: Learned men study for their knowledge: Richmen labour for their gaines: Tradesmen trauell for their Sciences: All men, (which will liue like men in their age) labour like beasts in their youth, vnles they haue Lands to trust to: My meaning is not to disparage learning, because it is hard to attaine dispraise honour, because it is difficult to get: discourage Prentises, because their beginnings are laborious: for I haue read that the base of *Pernassus* is full of briers, thornes, and thistles, but the toppe, plaine as heauen, & smooth as the Moones face. I haue heard that the steppes which ascend to honour, are like the staires which mount to the hight of a *Maze*, many and endles. The dores conducting thervnto, infinite, and intricate, but the top like the toppe of *Olimpus*, and the roomes pleasant, and spatious, garnished with more then mortal obiects. And I know by Experience that the skill and secrecy of mechanicall Artes, are not got (like a loose woman) at first sight. Neither will yeild any great proffit at first labouring, any more then a barrein ground at the first sowing, I doe not therefore Cauill with my calling, nor am pensiue for the paines I indure; but the originall of all my sorrow is a Mistresse so peeuish, proude, petulant: oh *si fas dicere*. She came naked into the Citty and shall returne naked out of the citty, vnles she doe pennance with a white sheete pind about her when she is dead, as she deserueth now she liueth. Her Mother is very The Peition of the prentice

well knowne for a poore woman, but I thinke she neuer knew her father. My honest maister married her for loue, and had nought with her, and he is likely to haue nought so long as he hath her: yet she flaunteth with the finest, and gaddeth abroade with the giddiest: looketh for greater seruice then an Empresse: and more duty then a Dutches: enuying all that are more brauely trapped then her selfe, and confederates with few, but such as are wantonly entrapped as she is. Her Wenches feele the weight of her light fingers, and we haue many a peale wrong about our eares too: We waite all the day to serue our maisters Chapmen, but when any of her Customers come, we are sent abroade on a sleeueleese errand, and then what becomes of our maisters ware? I doe now wish that some faire Chaunce may light vpon her, to rid my suspectlesse maister of so foule a mischiefe, both for his owne sake and welfare, and the future quietnesse of his trustie Seruants. But to all good Mistresses, whose conditions are contrary to hers, I do wish *Fortune* to poure vpon them the aboundance of her fauours.

The Prentise.

The Mal-content walketh along.

The Male-content.

WEll said yong Prentise, Macte tua virtute puer, Sic itur ad astra. Proceed as thou hast begun, and doubt not to become a good Common weales-man, when thou hast gotten this a bigger purse, a better office, and a larger beard. Another ioggeth along, spurning the pauement as if he were angry with it. For shame let not thine hat hang ouer thine eyes: Dost thou dispaire of thy face, thou maskst it so with thy cloake: hold vp thine head like a man: and pume thy band thou slouen; Button thy wrists, it is wholesome, and garter thy stockings it is hansome.

The Opinion of the Male-content.

His thoughts (said Opinion) are as confused, as his apparell: he brableth with his starres, & brauleth at his creation: he wisheth the Caule which wrapped him in his mothers wombe,

wombe, had bene his winding sheete: and he which breathed that Promotheon fire into him, had put it out. The welfare of others is his bane, and their ruine Balsamum to him: He thinks better of himselfe then he deserueth, and worse of others then they demerit: He preacheth that which he will not follow, & followes that which no true Christian will preach: his words are lightning, which though they alight vpon all, yet they fire few: what he thinketh, he bolteth out without charity. He wipeth vices taile with his tongue, and that is the reason his words are so vnsauory. He is like a bauling dog, that barks at all that gallops on horseback, when he goes a foote: like a mad dogge that snappeth at all that meete him: like a mastiffe that worrieth oftentimes such as come neare him. He is other mens foe, and none of his own friend: he disliketh both extreames, and thinketh meanely of the meane: he is a Misanthropos, which hateth men, a Narcissus which loueth not women, a Diogenes which carpeth at all, a malitious Mal-content.

If you tender the welfare of a Discontent, whose perturbed Spirit, haunteth you in this white sheete, poure downe your disastrous accidents vpon the worlds wasters, disorders, vice, and villany. Say this Petition be preiudiciall to many: many haue stradled ouer the like style, and more would walke in the same path, were they not extruded and excluded. What rare *Machiauils* (right matchlesse villaines) how many be directed to the *Barathrum* of beggery, so they be mounted vpon the heauen of honour? What remorse hath a reprobate who starue and want cloathing, so he be full fed, and gorgeously arrayed? I am no Spaniell to fawne vpon men, nor little Puppy to licke the excrements of women. The Diuell domineereth like a great commander, and his souldiers march vnder the colour of honesty, which now a dayes is accounted like a strumpet, *He which vseth it shal die a begger*. Couetousnes is become a Tradesman, and Pride his wife. Drunkennes the onely sociable companion, & Lechery the sole good fellow: Gluttony is a great man, and Enuy a yonger brother: Sloth

The Mal-contents Petition.

hath got a liuing: Oh Sodome, thou wast fired for thy sinnes, yet thy sinnes escaped, and range *hic & vbiq*, Old Tyre, thou wast deiected, new tires are erected: *Redit orbis in orbem.* The Asse hath got on the Lions skin, lusty Harts cast their horns amongst the Faunes: Spiders make their Cobwebs in kings Courts: little Conyes vndermine huge Castles, and pull the wals vpon their owne heads: *Omnium rerum vicissitudo.* Freemen are become slaues: Rich men turnd beggers: Beggers changed to rich men, *Asperius nihil est. Oh tempore, oh mores!* Beasts lie in houses, Serpents craule in corners, Cookes keepe in citties, Dawes in old Churches, Wag-tailes in great places: Saint *Peters* Vicar is turnd Myner, and doth trafficke with Salt-peeter: *Monstrum informe, ingens, cui lumen veræ pietatis est ademptum.*

The Mal-content.

The poore Scholler walketh by.

The poore Scholler.

HE fisheth finely, and is likely to catch Carpes, and powtings. But what Mounsier Male-goe is this, that commeth next, so displaying the fretted Cuffe Taffity facing of his threadbare cloake? Cannot he walke vprightly like an honest man, but let it so like a Jennet, and wagge his head to and fro like a Weathercocke? Fie vpon it what Rusticall legges he maketh like a Tennant, or a countrey Curate, which neuer came any nearer to an Vniuersity then Lincolne Minster. Odit prophanũ vulgens, He is none of your Plebeians in his owne conceit, but Apollos godson, christened in the Pirenean, or Hyporrenean fount, he is a common Souldiour vnder Mineruas ensigne, and fighteth like a Grammer scholler with Pen and Inkhorne.

The Opinion of a poore Scholler.

Oh forbeare (said Opinion) doe not betray your owne nest, turne not student of the law, & forget your old Academicall associates: yet I thinke you speake not this out of malice to the parties, but of meere loue, that they seeing their foolish gates gibed at, may amend them: for there are some of your

peart

peart Iuuenals, that mince it, as if they were citizens wiues: and yet I will not say that it procœdeth from any pride, or ouerweening conceit in all that do so: but of an ill habit, which they haue gotten by a careles and fantasticall carriage. But let that passe, and ile shew you what this present Petitioner is: to wit, One which though he did neuer eate Porridge in the Innes of Court without a spoone, yet he hath made foule shift to deuoure his dinner in a Colledge without a Trencher; though he cannot carue a Capon without the helpe of a Cleauer, or vnlace a Rabbet like a cunning Caruer. Rostra diserтus amat, yet he can eate rost well enough to please himselfe. He is a King in his owne conceit: and hath more in him then euery one can conceiue. He deserueth better fauour then the world affordeth him: and yet he hath as good fauor as any in the world which hath no better then he hath: How he hath bene estimated in former times, it bootes him not, yet he hath Bootes when he rideth, though he borrow them. To be short, and serious, he is reiected of fools, respected of the wise, held in disgrace among prophane, but in reuerent reputation with those, which are sincerely religious. Nothing regarded by the couetous and base minded churles, but greatly rewarded by the liberall and truly descended Gentilitie, a Scholler.

The poore Schollers Pention.

Would it not grieue that gentleman, which had sold his signories, and spent the mony vpon hopes of preferment, and in fine, behold his inferiours aduanced, and himselfe obtaine no greater reward then faire promises and faithles protestations? Would it not kill that Souldiers heart with grief, which when he had lost his limmes, and left his liuing for his Countreys good, returning feeble, and decrepit to his natiue Countrey, to be Caged, Stockt, and baited with Beadles? And would it not pine that Scholler, and make him looke like the vicar of Saint Albones, that hath bene brought vp seuen yeares vnder the lanching lash of a left-handed School-master, & after that feed with 3. penny chops, & very singular beere in an Vniuersity, rose early, & watched late, *Per tot discrimina rerũ tendimus*

ad latium, thorough many troubles we attayne to Latine, and after all this, to be a poore Pen-an-Inck-horne wearer, a *Pedagog*, one that teacheth Schollers for 5. pence the weeke, and at the quarter day is glad to take choake-cheeſe, and barrell butter for the Summa Totalis: *Proh deum, atque hominum fidem.* Oh that ſome fellow which had but a little wit, and no wiſdome, might crauerſe this Parentheſis: Me thinke I apprehend him already how vnreaſonably he would raile vpon the 7. liberall Sciences, wiſh *Pernaſſus* turn'd to a Molehill, & that *Vulcan*, when he claue *Minerua* out of *Iupiters* braine, had knockt out the braines too, becauſe that he carrying the Muſes, as familiars about him, ſhould be pinched with want, when he knoweth many ſeruile groomes, whoſe qualities or dimentions are no way ſurpaſſing his, promoted from the ſtable to the table, from the table to the bed. But hoe there Signiour: Hee that can picke any thing out of a painted cloath, may perceiue by fortune painted muffled in a tree, throwing downe vpon ſome, Crownes: others, military weapons: ſome bagges of Gold, others Sackes of Salt: Some one thing, others another thing: Some muſt be Kings and ouerrule all, ſome muſt be Souldiers, and fight for their Countrey, ſome muſt be husbandmen, and digge commodity from the earth, ſome muſt be Aſtronomers, and plucke proffit from the ſtarres: ſome muſt haue more then they can carry, and ſuch are richmen: ſome muſt be men of good carriage, and can get little, & ſuch are Porters: ſome muſt haue liuings enough bequeathed them, and ſome muſt not haue ſo much as an haire left them: ſome muſt lead the world in a ſtring, and ſome muſt leaue the world in a ſtring: *Quæ cum ita ſint* (oh moſt mutable) I doe not grudge at my calamities, but the cauſes: *Aueroas Mecenaſſes* and dunſticall *Dondegoes*, which will allow a Scholler no more, that ſhould waft them to heauen, then a Sculler that ſhould cary them alongſt the Theams, or any other hauens: *Muſas facientes Mulos*: Making the Muſes, Mules, Iades, or Hacknies: For ſuppoſe a Scholler (like olde *Byas*) carrieth all his Lands about him, be intertaynd into any

of

of their houſes, as many be: Though he be a good Gramarian, one that can chop Logick, and like the freſhman, returning from *Athens*, make three egges of two, and his father eating the two, bad him take the third for his cunning: imagine he can pretty well in Philoſophy naturall, and metaphiſicall, tell halfe an hundreth lyes out of Pliny: hath ſome inſight in Poetry, and if he had maintenance and countenance would be come a ſound Practitioner in the deepeſt Science: This fellow for all this ſhal be lodged next the kitchin, where the Cookes, and ſculles keepe ſuch a ſcolding that they will take order for his ſtudying: or in ſome ruynous roome, where his Maſters Fathers Ghoſt is reported to walke: and Robingoodfellow and Hobgoblins, are ſaid to play their fagayries in the night, ſo that he will take no reſt for ſleeping and all the day he ſhall ſpend himſelfe poaring ouer my *Lady Fayne-woulds* capable eldeſt: and three or foure froward (I ſhould ſay toward) younger Brothers: for which turmoyles his yearely ſtipend ſhall be 5. markes, beſides the Patrons, or the Widdowes countenance: Which may be ſo good that few Schollers hauing reaſonable Noſes in their faces, would be loath to haue it for fourty poundes. Now for his fare, it is lightly at the cheefeſt Table, but he muſt ſit vnder the Salt, that is an Axiome in ſuch places: and before he take his ſeat, *Memorandum* he haue two legs in ſtore, one for the Maiſter, another for the Miſtreſſe: Then hauing drawne his Knife leiſurably, vnfoulded his Napkin mannerly, after twice or thrice wyping his Beard (if he haue it) he may reach the Bread on his Knifes point, and fall to his porridge and betweene euery Sponefull take as much deliberation, as a Capon crāming (leaſt he be out of his porridge before they haue buried part of their firſt courſe in their Bellyes) And at the ſecond ſeruice (if there be any ſuch hot ſeruice) the refuſe of the former ſhall be ſet before him, but oftentimes like a rifled Souldier, hauing not ſo much as a good peece left, or like the picture of death, all bones, which putteth him in minde to decline *bonus, bona, bonum:* but this muſt be vnderſtood to happen

happen at an hunting dinner, or after he hath whipped his eldeſt Scholler, for ſo long as my young Maiſter liketh his Scholemaiſter, and may take no farther at his leſſon, then he liſt, his mother will be moſt reſpectiue, but if he once contradict him, and printe ſwinger vpon his poſteriors, then laments are raiſd, there is an inſurrection amongſt the pen-boys *Peter Prouin* the horſe-keeper will doe, Zaueds that he will. The Cooke will put poiſon in his porridge, or worke him ſome other miſchiefe, if he durſt: then enters the Fleire, like the *Chorus* in a Tragedy, and telleth all. The mother like a tender hearted *Auditor*, pittieth the Scene, buſſeth her boy, and telleth him he ſhall be beaten no more, No, that he ſhall not. Thus doth the olde foole hugge young *Iackanapes*, till ſhe ſpoile him: yet heere is not the full *Cataſtrophe*, for ſhe will neuer reſt till ſhe haue lifted him out of her houſe, and will haue another in his roome, it maketh no matter what he be, ſo he will not whippe her boy and ſerue for little wages, he will ſerue the turne: I mary, this maketh ſo many wilde youthes, and wiſe aged men: When the earth is not well manured, tilled and ploughed, it is rancke, and ſterile, and where youth wanteth nurture, age is ignorant, and ill mannered. The Beare by licking her whelpes bringeth them into ſome forme, but many mothers by lolling their children turne them out of all good faſhion. The loue of Parents towards their children is naturall and not to be blamed, but this Cockering is fond, and hurtfull: Waxe being ſofte, will ſuffer any impreſſion, and children being young are as capable of goodnes, if they be trayned vp therafter: as they are prone to knauery without any great inducements. The Colt at firſt backing will curuet, and winch, but after he hath chancked the bit a while, and felt the Spurſe in his ſide, he becometh more tractable: Not an Hedgeplaſher but can ſay, he which will haue a thorne, muſt cut a thorne, and if they would haue theſe tender plantes to proue godly Columnes in the Commonwealth, let them be lopt, and dreſſed in drie ſeaſon: let them be carefully tutored, and encouraged by faire meanes,

and

and reasonable recreation: If that will not worke with them, vse a stronger potion: *Qui non vult ſ duci, debet ſtrahi*, He that will not goe gently, must be dragged vncourteously: The tranquill gouernement of our commonwealth doth sufficiently manifest, how much our Land is blessed with a thrice worthy King: prouident Counsell, vpright Iudges, learned and well educated Gentlemen, zealous Diuines, any cunning Lawiers enow, yet it may be obserued in some places where many are congregated about publique affaires, others shuffled in, which whilst the others are poising the weightiest matters, sit like Cyphers, and if any question be put vnto them. *Obmutuerunt*; *Putas ne verbum potuisse proloqui*: They can tell the Clocke daudle their gloues, or play with their forepoints, their Mothers taught them those Lessons, when they satte playing with them vpon their Knees: They thinke they pleasure their Country, if they vouchsafe their presence, and grace themselues, if they put of the hatte hansomely, and nod the head with a Clowdy countenance, as who would say, it is an hard case, but *Verbum non amplius*: And what is the cause of this, but whilst the one kept close at their bookes both at home and abroad in the Vniuersity and Innes of Court, the other were yalping after a Kennel of Hounds, in their youth, or whoping at an Owle in an Iuybush. Their parents would not be at the cost to maintaine a good Scholler to traine them vp, nor their Mothers suffer them to indure any hardenesse, or labour: without which true knowledge cannot be attained: And as many of these are careless for the well educating of their children: So most of them are supine and negligent of themselues. What careth the couetous Patron, so he can compound to his contentement: Be he one of Bale Priests, or a bald Priest, if he can read the Authorised Seruice: Be he of what Tribe he will, if he can hoble ouer an homily with a weekes warning: As for monethly Sermons, it is but greasing a Parater; and the

Churchwarden, is his Tennant: he will be ſworne on a booke *to an omne bene: Infœlix oh ſemper ouis.* Too many places are full of ſuch, which are more meete to be fiſhermen, then fiſhers of men, and fitter to catch ſoales, then, ſoules, which either behaue themſelues like the dogge in the Manger, which neither would eat hay himſelfe, nor ſuffer the beaſt: Which either keepe the childrens bread from them, or if they giue them any, they doe ſo mouth it, and mangle it, that it becommeth moſt loathſome, comming from ſuch filthy hands, and handling, which I wiſh were otherwiſe, that the pouerties of poure Schollers might be pittied, their Petitions preferred, their fortunes bettered, & what is amiſſe, might be amended.

The poore Scholler.

The Scholler hath fruſtrated my expectation (ſaid I) for I did expect he ſhould haue wiſhed ill lucke to light vpon his enemies as the others haue. Touching his ſpeech I durſt auerre it to be true: for drones driue out the Bees, and the wolues in sheeps cloathing worry the Lambes: They take the tythes, though they take not the paines. Amongſt all which I thinke it reaſon, that that Parſon ſhould haue tyth porridge, which out of the heat of a good ſtomacke (I iudge it was) taught his pariſhioners wiues in a quarterly Sermon fower wayes to keele a pot, when it began to ſeeth ouer: A right worthy domeſticall Chaplin for Heliohogabalus, yet if yow marke, it is a profitable diſh of doctrine, for vnleſſe it be followed, all the fat is in the fire: But how now? who commeth next? There are many Petitioners behinde. How chaunce they ſteppe not forward? I perceiue the Beadle is angry, and will ſuffer no more to be preferred or brought into the Citty, till anſwer be made to the reſt that are already exhibited.

A PROSOPOPAEIA OR IMAGINED ANSWER TO THE FORMER PETITIONERS. by Dame Fortune

NO more Petitions, I haue heard too much,
Too miſchieuous, and monſtrous wickedneſſe,
Nor will I condeſcend to any ſuch
As ſeeke by others woe to purchace bliſſe:
Your ſuites ſo wicked, your Petitions full
O ſenſuall appetites, I diſanull.

Fond worldlings, thinke you, that euery furious curſe
Belcht gainſt your foes, ſhall bring them to their wracke?
Or euery fooliſh wiſh your fancies nurſe,
Will with an approbation be ſent backe?
Then ſhould the world be as it firſt began,
Repleate with beaſts, but diſpoſſeſt of man.

For as you are by naturall inſtinct
Infirme, and ſubiect to affections:
So are your wilfull Supplications linckt
With others ruines, and ſubuerſions:
But he that knoweth beſt whats good, whats ill,
Payes all, not as they would, but as he will.

And therefore know, that whoſoere you curſe,
Are not accurſed for your curſe alone,
Nor they whom you wiſh puniſhments, are worſe
For your raſh wiſhes publicke or vnknowne:
Nor I my ſelfe, if that I would, can doe

Hurt to the parties, you incite me to.

For that *Ens Entium*, all the worlds first maker,
Existent without fine, and vncreate
Makes any thing the cause and ioynt partaker
Of his consuming rage, to ruinate
His chiefest earthly fabricke, when and where
He please, it from a sinfull earth to teare.

Thus much ingenerall: Now I will regresse
More specially to each particular,
And as you did appeare at first, redresse,
To here your answers, which Ile not deferre
With dull procrastinations, but begin
With her, who first put her Petition in.

The answer to the Harlot

Detested woman, shame vnto thy Sexe,
Which prostitut'st thy body vnto all,
Making thy selfe the filth and loathsome sex
That brings thine owne decay and others thrall:
Leaue of thy loathed trading, and be bound
A new to honesty, thats safe and sound.

Consider why thou wert created first
To serue thy Maker, and bring forth increase,
From which, thy loathed life, and quenchles thirst
Of variable lust, compels thee cease.
For thy foule life so odious in heauens eye
Can leane the world no prosperous progeny.

Next call to minde the pleasures thou hast past,
The dainty fare, sweet musicke, and delight,
How momentarily and soone they wast,
Like to a flash of lightning in the night,
Or like a Larke, that swiftly mounts the skie,
Now seene, but out of prospect by and by.

And laſt of all, thinke but vpon thine end,
When Age begins to neſtle in thy bones,
What anguiſhes thy former courſes ſend,
Fraught with heart-waſting aches, pangs and grones:
And after all, how thou art ſure to fry,
If thou doſt perſeuere, eternally.

Thou which haſt lauiſht thy eſtate, and ſpent
Thy prime of time, in vnaduiſ'd exceſſe,
Do not miſpend the reſidue thats lent
To cure thy cares, and driue thee from diſtreſſe:
If thou haſt grace, ther's grace inough in ſtore,
For him that truly can that grace implore.

To the Spendall.

Luſt, Pride and Riot, wreſtling in thy breſt,
Haue giuen thy Fortunes, and thy ſelfe the fall,
Yet lie not groueling with diſpaire oppreſt,
Although thou canſt not all tha's paſt recall,
Thou maiſt redeeme that thou haſt pawn'd to hell,
Thy pittious ſoule hereafter, liuing well.

Thou country Client with inuectiue Iawes,
Darting thy malice and inteſtine griefe,
Vpon ſome bad peruerters of the Lawes,
Shalt eaſe thy ſelfe and purchace great reliefe,
By ſhunning the occaſions of thy fals,
Vncharitable deeds, litigious brauls.

To the country Client.

If thou wouldſt haue reuenge vpon them all,
Liue orderly, deuoyd of wrong and ſtrife:
So maiſt thou ſuch contentious wrangles gall,
By leading a contented and mylde life:
For while each petty treſpaſſe, brawl and taunt,
Are tooke in ſnuffe and dudgeon, Lawyers flaunt.

The Seruingman came next, which hath reuilde

The ſlight rewarding of his youthfull paines,
Though ſome that truſt to others, are beguild,
Yet faithfull ſeruice oft reaps certaine gaines,
Ingratitude if rife, yet there are ſuch
That deeme no guerdon for their ſeruants much.

But ſeeing thou felſt (as thy Petition ſhowes)
Betweene the griping clawes of auerous churles,
Impatient ſpeech, proclaim'd againſt all thoſe,
To further inconuenience hurles
Thy deſperate ſtate: how ere it did commence,
Tak't as thy ſinnes deſerued recompence.

To the Maide with childe.

Thou, which wert credulous to iudge all true
A yong man vttered in the heate of blood,
So pitiouſly doſt now too late bedew
Thy cheeks with teares: it is a token good,
If they do trickle from a ſorrowing ſoule,
Not for thy Loues loſſe, but thy deeds ſo foule.

Where ſores are cureles, ther's no helpe by care
Content will mittigate each Diſcontent,
Kept as a ſhield to ward thee from Diſpaire,
And fierce aſſaults of future languiſhment,
The cauſer cannot thriue: vvhat heretofore
You did commit, Repent: but ſinne no more.

To the Louer

You are too hot, too eager, and to keene
Gainſt thoſe you loue ſo well, the female kinde,
Bolting outragious termes, oreclog'd with ſpleene,
From the diſtracted paſſions of your minde,
Sincerely vertuous, many may be found,
Though ſome with many vices do abound.

If one haue wrong'd you, wrong not all for one
Nor dote on her, that hath forſaken you,
One precious ſtone doth cut another ſtone,

Thers

A ſtrange Foot-Poſt.

Thers plenty yet abroad, goe get a new,
Seeke with diſcretion, and doubt not to finde
A conſtant Mate, that may content thy minde.

Old woman, leaue complayning, 'tis too late
For you to lodge within a youngſters bed,
You are decrepit, and growne out of date
To reyne a ſlinging Colte, vnweldy head
A prayer booke linckt to your ſhaking hands
Were fitter farre then youngeſt wedlocke bandes.

To the olde woman married with the young man.

Doe not repine, or grudge, young louely creature
At vneſcaped Deſtiny, Mariage:
Nor macerate with cares your beauteous feature
Banning cannot abate your griefe, nor rage
Nor any other thing ſalue your diſeaſe,
Vntill the cutting Deſtiny doth pleaſe.

To the young woman married to the old man.

Imagine that thou art a weaned childe
Hugd in the boſome of an aged nurſe
Let deeds and wordes be dutifull and milde
Leaſt they doe make thy anguiſhes the worſe,
For in a moment Age with Rage is toſt
And waxeth moſt impatient, being croſt.

Thou that Petition'ſt gainſt thy wiues offence
Se thou be cleere thy ſelfe of the like ſpot,
Then maiſt thou with more right thy ſuite commence,
Or els take quietly thy crooked lot,
For he that ſtriues with Sword, it is decreed
Shall be reſtruck with Scabberd, till he bleed.

To the Cuckold.

Couragious Souldier, whoſe true valorous heart
Was neuer daunted with inuading foes
But cauſd thy greateſt enemies to ſtart
(At thy aſſaylings them) like timorous Doos,

To the Souldier.

Vanquiſh

—— Vanquiſh thy ſelfe, and chance which puls thee downe
A thing more mighty then to winne a Towne.

To the Prentiſe.

Liue carefully young Prentiſe, be no waſter
Of others goods, abandon filthy whores,
And diſſolute aſſemblies: Pleaſe thy Maiſter
And all the night keepe cloſe within his dores,
Roue not about the ſuburbes and the ſtreetes
When he doth thinke you wrapt betweene your ſheets.

Too many take ſuch courſes vile and baſe
To their owne miſeries and maiſters fall
But if thou doe thy duty in thy place
And prouidently keepe within thy ſtall,
When they ride bound, or lurke in ſome by-lnae
Thou maiſt ride with thy foot-cloth, and gold chaine,

To the Male-content.

Thou that in vaine doſt wrangle with thy ſtarres,
And cauill at the factes by others done,
Leaue of thy ſelfe-deſtroying ciuill warres,
And intermedling with all others, ſhunne,
Enormeties enow thou haſt to mend
If to thine owne affaires thou doe deſcend.

To all.

And to conclude, let all for certaine know
That Gods reuengefull Yron Bowe is bent
And ſhaftes in readines to ouerthrow
Synnes harbourers, that doe not ſoone repent,
Let each one therefore his vilde courſes mend,
A wicked life makes ſeldome a good end.

With that, me thought, I ſaw Fortune tranſported out of ſight, & the Petitioners made ſuch an humming at her departure, as if it had beene at the applauſiue end of an Vniuerſity oration, or other Scholler like exercise, that they awaked me with the noyſe, who in the end, writ the premiſes.

FINIS.

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